

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Lucas County

Ohio · Toledo · FIPS 39095 · Population 430,014 · Crosodo Index #2586*

STATE BASELINE

O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

—

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-05

IMPORTANT — NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

How to start — 60-second path

Lucas County, Ohio — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No specific state restriction in cottage food law.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Ohio cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Ohio home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Ohio label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

OHIO: LUCAS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2586* · FIPS 39095 · Toledo

Lucas County

Population 430,014 · State baseline: O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20 ·

MEDIUM

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Conditional (Ohio cottage food law (O.R.C. §3715.023/025; Ohio Admin. Code 901:3-20) requires no registration or permit from the state. Only state-approved non-TCS foods from the specific approved product list (OAC 901:3-20-04) are permitted (bakery products, candy, flavored honey, fruit butters, granola/bars, maple sugar, popcorn products, unfilled baked donuts, waffle cones, pizzelles, dry cereal/nut snack mixes, roasted coffee, dry baking mixes in a jar, dry herbs, spice mixes). No sales outside Ohio. No reduced oxygen packaging. Toledo-Lucas County Health Department (TLCHD) has food safety oversight. Home occupations in Toledo governed by Toledo Municipal Zoning Code §1105.0400.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state restriction in cottage food law.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Toledo Municipal Zoning Code §1105.0400 governs home occupations within city limits. For unincorporated Lucas County areas, county zoning applies. Home occupations must be secondary to residential use. Ohio cottage food law does not preempt local zoning, so operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with local municipality (Toledo, Maumee, Sylvania, Oregon, etc.).)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Conditional

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (No routine inspection required under Ohio cottage food law. TLCHD does not recognize foods prepared in home kitchens for mobile/licensed food establishments.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Conditional — Ohio cottage food law (O.R.C. §3715.023/025; Ohio Admin. Code 901:3-20) requires no registration or permit from the state. Only state-approved non-TCS foods from the specific approved product list (OAC 901:3-20-04) are permitted (bakery products, candy, flavored honey, fruit butters, granola/bars, maple sugar, popcorn products, unfilled baked donuts, waffle cones, pizzelles, dry cereal/nut snack mixes, roasted coffee, dry baking mixes in a jar, dry herbs, spice mixes). No sales outside Ohio. No reduced oxygen packaging. Toledo-Lucas County Health Department (TLCHD) has food safety oversight. Home occupations in Toledo governed by Toledo Municipal Zoning Code §1105.0400.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No specific state restriction in cottage food law.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific state requirement for cottage food operations.

HANDWASHING

Standard food safety practices.

FOOD STORAGE

Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only from ODA-approved product list. No reduced oxygen packaging.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — No routine inspection required under Ohio cottage food law. TLCHD does not recognize foods prepared in home kitchens for mobile/licensed food establishments.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Toledo Municipal Zoning Code §1105.0400 governs home occupations within city limits. For unincorporated Lucas County areas, county zoning applies. Home occupations must be secondary to residential use. Ohio cottage food law does not preempt local zoning, so operators should verify home occupation permit requirements with local municipality (Toledo, Maumee, Sylvania, Oregon, etc.).
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Cottage food may be sold directly or indirectly (Ohio allows some indirect sales). Products cannot be sold outside Ohio. Sales at farmers markets, from home, online permitted.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified in state cottage food law; local home occupation rules vary.

Relevant county code

O.R.C. §3715.023/025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20-04 (approved products); Toledo Municipal Zoning Code §1105.0400 (home occupations).

RESEARCH NOTES

Ohio state cottage food law well-documented. Toledo-Lucas County Health Department (TLCHD) note: home kitchen foods are not recognized for mobile or licensed food establishments, but cottage food law itself does not require licensure. Toledo zoning code (January 2024 version) confirmed to have home occupation section (§1105.0400). Ohio has a specific approved product list (unlike many states) — only products on OAC 901:3-20-04 list are permitted. No registration or inspection required at state level. Local zoning compliance required. Confidence medium: state law high-confidence; Toledo zoning code section confirmed to exist but not fully reviewed for cottage food specifics.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://co.lucas.oh.us>

<https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/food-safety/cottage-foods>

<https://cdn.toledo.oh.gov/uploads/documents/Plan-Commission/TMZC/TMZC-2024-01-17.pdf>

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/ohio/lucas-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Lucas County	Wood County	Fulton County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Conditional	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No specific state restriction in cottage food law.	Not explicitly prohibited; kitchen sanitation required.	No specific pet restriction in Ohio state cottage food law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	No	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Conditional	Yes	Conditional
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Cottage food may be sold directly or indirectly (Ohio allows some indirect sales). Products cannot be sold outside Ohio. Sales at farmers m...	Direct and indirect sales within Ohio permitted. Online sales within Ohio allowed. No out-of-state sales.	Direct sales (home, farmers markets, events) and indirect sales to licensed retail food establishments permitted within Ohio. No out-of-sta...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Varies	Varies
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Ohio cottage food law (O.R.C. §3715.023/025; Ohio Admin. Code 901:3-20) requires no registration or permit from the state. Only state-appro...	No registration required. Products must be from Ohio's approved cottage food product list (OAC 901:3-20-04). Products cannot be sold outsid...	Ohio cottage food law allows production of approved non-potentially-hazardous foods in a home kitchen with no sales cap and no registration...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only from ODA-approved product list. No reduced oxygen packaging.	Ohio approved product list only. Non-potentially hazardous; stored in food-safe containers.	Non-potentially hazardous, shelf-stable foods only per OAC 901:3-20-04 approved product list.
POPULATION	430,014	131,564	42,602

State context — Ohio cottage food law

Lucas County's rules sit on top of Ohio's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE	ANNUAL SALES CAP
O.R.C. §3715.023; §3715.025; Ohio Admin. Code Ch. 901:3-20	—
REGISTRATION REQUIRED	FOOD HANDLER CERT
No	No
KITCHEN INSPECTION	DIRECT SALES ONLY
No	No
INDIRECT SALES	
Yes — Labeled cottage food products may be sold to or used by retail food establishments and food service operations licensed under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3717. This enables indirect/wholesale sales within Ohio. Products may not be sold outside the state of Ohio.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **Ohio cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/ohio.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3715.025>

State dept cottage food page: <https://agri.ohio.gov/divisions/food-safety/cottage-foods>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/ohio/>

Questions about Lucas County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/ohio/lucas-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Lucas County, Ohio. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/ohio/lucas-county-discuss

Free ad space available

Let us know if you're a non-profit or community organization. Farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and cottage food events near you welcome.

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